

Proceedings of the Public Hearing:

The Minutes of Public Hearing regarding proposed 14 sand ghats for sand excavation from riverbeds of river Mosam & Girna located in Kalvan/ Deola/ Malegaon & Baglan Tehsils of Districts Nashik of Maharashtra based on proposal submitted by Project Proponent – District Mining Office, Nashik

The Project Proponent – Mining Officer, Nashik – submitted the proposal for proposed fourteen (14) sand ghats for sand/ excavation in the Girna and Mosam riverbeds of Kalwan, Deola, Malegaon, and Baglan tehsils, District Nashik, Maharashtra. Accordingly Public Hearing was held on Wednesday, 24th September 2025 at 11:00 a.m. at the Central Hall, District Collector Office, Nashik.

The Government of India Ministry of Environment published the Sand Mining Framework 2018 in March 2018. This framework provided guidelines based on the study of certain major states in the country, laying down directives concerning essential aspects to be followed while permitting sand extraction. Furthermore, as per the orders of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) in O.A. No. 368 of 2015 dated 19/09/2018, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, was directed to coordinate and implement appropriate policy changes in line with the Sustainable Sand Mining Guidelines 2016, Sand Mining Framework 2018, and Sand Mining Framework 2020, as well as to conduct public hearings.

In accordance with the notification dated 14.09.2006 and the amended notification dated 01.12.2009 issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, the Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB), Mumbai, through Office Order No. E-67/2025, Letter No. BO/JD/(WPC)PH/B-250910 FTS 0224 dated 10.09.2025, constituted the following Environmental Public Hearing Committee:

1. District Collector, Nashik – Chairman

(or his representative, not below the rank of Additional District Collector)

2. Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Nashik

(Representative of MPCB, Mumbai) – Member

3. Sub-Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Nashik – Coordinator

Shri Prashant Gaikwad, Sub-Regional Officer, MPCB Nashik and Coordinator of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee, welcomed the Chairman of the Committee, the representatives of the Project Proponent, and the local public present. With the permission of the Chairman of the Committee, he elaborated on the introduction regarding the Environmental Public Hearing.

The Coordinator of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee stated that as per the notifications dated 14th September 2006 and 1st December 2009 of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, New Delhi, obtaining Environmental Clearance is mandatory for certain projects, and prior to that, conducting a Public Hearing on environmental matters is compulsory.

Shri Prashant Gaikwad, Coordinator, further mentioned that the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board had received an application from the Project Proponent – Mining Officer's Office, Nashik – for conducting an Environmental Public Hearing regarding the proposed 14 sand ghats in the Girna and Mosam riverbeds located in Kalwan, Deola, Malegaon, and Baglan tehsils, District Nashik.

The coordinator stated that, as per the letter of the Environment Department, Mantralaya, Mumbai dated 03.12.2019, conducting an Environmental Public Hearing is mandatory for obtaining prior Environmental Clearance for the sand ghat project.

The Coordinator further explained that the primary objective of the Environmental Public Hearing is to inform the general public in the project area about the project, its likely impacts, to understand the sentiments of the local people, and to communicate the suggestions given by them to the Government.

As per the above environmental notification, it is mandatory to publish a notice regarding the Environmental Public Hearing at least 30 days in advance in the local newspapers. Accordingly, the Sub-Regional Office, MPCB Nashik, published the public notice regarding the hearing on 20.08.2025 in the local newspapers Marathi Daily Sakal and The Times of India (English). In that notice, the general public was invited to submit in writing any objections, concerns, or suggestions regarding the said project.

Accordingly, as per the notification of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi, copies of the Draft Environmental Management Report containing salient features of the sand ghat project along with documents containing the executive summary in Marathi and English were made available at the designated government offices, namely: the Director, Environment Department, Mantralaya, Mumbai; Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Ground Floor, East Wing, New Secretariat Building, Civil Lines, Nagpur; District Collector's Office, Nashik; Joint Director (WPC), MPCB, Sion (Mumbai); Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Nashik; Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Nashik; Sub-Divisional Officer Office at Kalwan, Malegaon, Baglan, District Nashik; Tahsildar Offices at Kalwan, Deola, Malegaon, Baglan, District Nashik; Gram Panchayat Offices at Nakode, Asvali (Tal. Kalwan), Mahalpatne, Lohaner-1, Savki, Savki-Lohaner, Vitewadi, Bhaur,

Khamkheda (Tal. Deola), Dhandri, Jaykheda (Tal. Baglan), Adhar (Khurd), Naradane, Patne, Yesgaon (Tal. Malegaon, District Nashik); and also on the official website of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board for access by the general public.

The coordinator informed all present that if they had any objections, concerns, or suggestions, they could submit them either in writing or orally. Also inform that the said committee will not take any decision regarding grant or refusal of EC, but will communicate the minutes of public hearing to the government.

With the consent of Shri Babasaheb Pardhe, Chairman and Additional District Collector, Nashik, the Project Proponent was instructed to present the details of the proposed project along with environmental management measures through a presentation.

Shri Deepak Chavan, Project Proponent and District Mining Officer, presented before the public gathering the details of the proposed project along with the environmental management measures through a presentation, covering the following points. Information regarding the proposed 14 sand ghats was provided as follows. The said Environmental Report was prepared by the environmental consultant, Mantras Innovation and Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Nashik.

1. The proposed 14 sand ghats are located in the tehsils of Kalwan, Baglan, Deola, and Malegaon.

Sr.No.	Names of Sand Ghats/ Name of Villages	Khasra No.	Taluka	Lease Area	Quantity of sand excavation
1.	Nakode Sandghat	187,188,199,200	Kalwan	1.08	1145
2.	Asoli Sandghat	80,81,82 & 83		1.75	1855
3.	Dhandri Sandghat	9,10,11,19,20,23,24,25 26,27,28,29	Baglan	1.08	1908
4.	Jaykheda sandghat	1204,1205,1117,1116 1135,1166,1162,84,1163,85		1.00	1766
5.	Mahalpatne Sandghat	502,507,509,522,557,556,565,417	Deola	3	6360
6.	Lohoner 1 Sandghat	955,956,957,958,971,972,973		4.15	10998
7.	Sawaki (Lo) Sandghat	292,296,297,298,303,304,305,322		1.7	3003
8.	Bhaur Sandghat	648,650,649/A,649/B,646		2.25	4770
9.	Sawaki Lohoner Vithewadi Sandghat	323,346,347		1.24	2629
10.	Khamkheda Sandghat	56,57/A,57/B,36,62,37,38,42,46,52,53,54,55		2.225	3921

11.	Aaghar Khu Sandghat	753,140,141,142,147,148,149,150,151,152,153,221	Malegaon	1.35	1670
12.	Nardane Sandghat	244,249,248,247,246,227,224,211,207		1.05	3710
13.	Patne Sandghat	360 to 363		1.5	1855
14.	Yesgaon Sandghat	136,137,153,154,209		1.1	1943

2. Salient Features:

Mining Method: Excavation will be carried out only with manual labor. Tools such as pickaxe, pan (ghamela), and shovel will be used. Excavation will be carried out from the dry riverbed.

Labor: Local manpower will be utilized.

Required Tools/Equipment: Pickaxe, pan (ghamela), shovel.

Transportation: Sand will be transported from the ghat to the storage area with the help of tractor-trolleys.

Water Requirement: For dust suppression (sprinkling), plantation, and domestic use.

Safety Measures: Provision of safety equipment for workers.

3. Conclusion:

As per the above discussion, sand excavation will have no adverse impact on the environment, except for a minor amount of dust generated during sand transportation. Adequate preventive measures will be adopted to control various pollutants. Employment opportunities will be provided to local people. Since excavation will be carried out scientifically and manually (non-mechanized) from the riverbed, the river will be conserved, and flooding will be prevented. Overall, the project has a positive and significant impact on the development of the social and economic environment.

After the presentation was completed, the Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee and Additional District Collector, Nashik, suggested that those present should put forth any environmental suggestions or objections they may have.

The questions raised by the citizens present, along with the responses given by the Project Proponent / Project Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee, are as follows –

Shri Laxman Popat Pawar, Bhaur raised his objections and views on various issues. He had also mentioned his objections/opinions in his letter dated 22/09/2025 to the Gram Panchayat Office, Bhaur, Taluka Deola, District Nashik. For example, if sand is excavated from the Girna river, the

percolation of water may stop, leading to a fall in the groundwater level. If water is not available for drinking and agriculture, the area around Bhaur village may face drought and scarcity. Although the government implements a sand policy to make sand easily available for development works and for citizens, in practice, the auction holders in sand ghats often illegally excavate sand without following any laws, rules, restrictions, terms, or conditions. They do not comply with any regulations or criteria regarding sand excavation, causing damage to the riverbed. Farmlands along the riverbanks, farm roads, tar roads, and bridges suffer damage. Local areas along the riverbanks are endangered. M-sand is a good alternative to natural sand. Therefore, considering the above reasons, Environmental Clearance should not be granted for the Bhaur sand ghat.

Shri Vaibhav Dharma Pawar, resident of Khamkheda, Taluka Deola stated that he supports the views of Shri Laxman Popat Pawar of Bhaur. He mentioned that there is strong opposition from the villagers of Khamkheda, and a unanimous resolution against the project has been passed in the Gram Sabha. He questioned how this process was initiated without the Gram Sabha. He urged that their views be considered, a proper conclusion drawn, and the process stopped. Otherwise, there will be bloodshed. They will not allow sand excavation. Irrigation from the Girna river will be affected, leading to severe water scarcity and ecological/environmental changes. The proposed sand ghat auctions along the riverbanks will hinder the development of the village. The proposed sand ghat auction at Khamkheda should be canceled. Rules are not being followed during sand excavation. Farmers will be ruined. Farmers will face huge losses. A health crisis could arise. It will encourage crime and political interference in the village. Sand mafias will increase. Only on paper is control shown. Regarding roads and employment, only assurances are given, but in reality, everything remains in the hands of the contractors. Auctioning the sand ghats is like selling the future. Action is being taken despite opposition from the Gram Sabha, and hence, strong objection is expressed.

Shri Shashikant Shridhar Nikam, resident of Vitewadi, Taluka Deola, District Nashik,

stated that the same situation described by Shri Vaibhav Pawar also exists in Vitewadi. The water level then and the water level today has gone deeper. A lot of damage has already been done. He suggested that the information be sent to the Sarpanch via email. He mentioned that even before the sand excavation process began, a weighing machine had been installed. He also noted that the Gram Panchayat has passed a resolution opposing it.

Shri Anil Ramdas Ahire, resident of Jaykheda, Taluka Baglan, District Nashik,

stated that the proposed sand ghat auction you are undertaking is wrong. If the riverbed deepens, the water level will go down further. The Gram Sabha is important, so we should be

taken into confidence. There is a tense atmosphere in 25 villages, so avoid the risk of unrest in the future. Due to this sand ghat auction, the biological chain will break, so do not commit this injustice.

Swabhimani Shetkari Sanghatana, Vitewadi, Taluka Deola, District Nashik,

on their behalf it was stated that if sand excavation auction is carried out, problems will arise for irrigation and drinking water. Therefore, no sand auction or contract should be granted in the stretch of the Girna riverbed from Bhaur Shiw to Vitewadi Shiw and from Vitewadi to Lohnere Shiw.

Shri Rajendra Dadaji Nikam, resident of Vitewadi, Taluka Deola, District Nashik,

stated that the Girna river is like a mother to us, and attempts should not be made to wound her by removing sand. This process should be stopped immediately.

The District Mining Officer stated that no decision will be taken ignoring you. Your views will be recorded in the report.

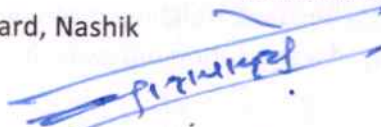
The Chairman of the Environmental Public Hearing Committee stated that the emotions of the Sarpanch, Deputy Sarpanch, and all those present are strong. Your concerns will be conveyed to the government. There is no question of enforcing the auction forcibly. The government will take the decision in this matter. We do not have the authority to make the decision, but your opinions have been recorded, and the minutes of this hearing, along with the recordings and other documents including the objections received, will be submitted to the government for necessary action. With this assurance, it was declared that the proceedings of the public hearing had concluded.



(Prashant Gaikwad)
Convener, Environmental Public
Hearing Committee and
Deputy Regional Officer,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Nashik



(Limbaji S. Bhad)
Member, Environmental Public Hearing
Committee and Regional Officer, Maharashtra
Pollution Control Board



(Babasaheb Pardhe)
Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee and
Additional District Magistrate, Nashik

Proceedings of the Public Hearing (Written Applications Received)

The written applications/complaints/objections received from citizens regarding the proposed sand mining of fourteen sand ghats located in the Mosam and Girna riverbeds in the tehsils of Kalwan, Deola, Malegaon, and Baglan, District Nashik, Maharashtra. A brief summary of the same is presented below.

Sr. No.	Name and Address of the Person/Institution Submitting Written Applications / Complaints / Objections	
1.	Gram Panchayat Officer, Deputy Sarpanch, Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat Bhaur, Taluka Deola, District Nashik	If sand is extracted from the Girna River, the process of water percolation will stop, leading to a decline in the groundwater level. Moreover, if water is not available for drinking and agricultural purposes, the Bhaur village area may suffer from drought and scarcity. The government implements the sand policy to ensure easy availability of sand for development works as well as for citizens. However, during the auctions of sand ghats, the auction holders extract sand illegally without following any laws, rules, restrictions, terms, and conditions. They do not comply with any regulations or criteria related to sand mining, which results in damage to the riverbed. Farmlands along the riverbanks, farm roads, asphalt roads, and bridges get damaged. The local areas along the riverbank face potential risks. M-sand is a good alternative to natural sand. Therefore, considering the above reasons, environmental clearance should not be granted for the sand ghat at Bhaur.
2.	Krishnai Riders Foundation, Jaikheda, Baglan, Taluka Nashik, District Nashik	The water level in the surrounding wells will decrease, which will endanger agriculture. Since there are wells along the riverbed that supply water to the village, they too may be at risk. If wild animals and birds do not get natural flowing drinking water from the river, they will drink water from pesticide spray tanks in the fields, which could pose a threat to their lives. Drinking water sources will be affected, disrupting daily life. The livelihood of tribal communities, who depend on fishing, will also be adversely affected.
3.	Group Gram Panchayat Office, Wadipisol, Taluka Baglan, District Nashik	If the sand excavation is auctioned, the water level in the river will drop, leading to a decline in the water level of wells, and the farmlands will become dry. Farmers will face hardship, and agricultural activities

		will be endangered, causing financial difficulties for them. Since there is no local-level control over the auction holder, disputes and conflicts often arise.
4.	Gram Panchayat Office, Jaikheda, Taluka Baglan, District Nashik	The farmlands along the riverbanks may be completely destroyed. During the auction of sand ghats, the auction holders illegally extract sand without following laws, rules, regulations, terms, and conditions. They do not adhere to any standards related to sand extraction. The environmental damage will outweigh the revenue benefits.
5.	Residents of the above-mentioned tribal settlement, Jaikheda	The possibility of accidents and loss of life due to potholes on the road cannot be denied. The residents of the above-mentioned tribal settlement are completely opposed to the auction of the sand ghat in Jaikheda village. Due to disruption in water drainage, the area around Jaikheda village may suffer from drought and scarcity.
6.	Devotees of Ishwar Mala Mahadev Temple, Jaikheda	If the roads in the riverbed are damaged, incoming devotees may face severe water scarcity. The Devsthan Panch Committee of Mahadev Temple is completely opposed to this. Due to disruption in water drainage, the area around Jaikheda village may suffer from drought and scarcity.
7.	Idgah Panch Committee, Jaikheda	Muslim community members may face difficulties crossing the riverbed on festival days. The Idgah Panch Committee is completely opposed to the auction of the sand ghat in Jaikheda village. Due to disruption in water drainage, the area around Jaikheda village may suffer from drought and scarcity.
8.	Above-mentioned Bhilati, Anganwadi Worker and Assistant, Jaikheda	Children may face difficulties in coming to the Anganwadi. There is complete opposition to the auction of the sand ghat in Jaikheda village. Due to disruption in water drainage, the area around Jaikheda village may suffer from drought and scarcity.
9.	Mrs. Priya Satish Tipre, Resident of Jaikheda	If the sand ghats in the Mosam riverbed are auctioned, we will face famine. Due to disruption in water drainage, the area around Jaikheda village may suffer from drought and scarcity. I am completely opposed to the auction of the sand ghat in Jaikheda village.
10.	Shri Shivaji Shirsath, Resident of Jaikheda	If the sand ghats in the Mosam riverbed are auctioned, we will face famine. Due to disruption in water drainage, the area around Jaikheda village may suffer from drought and scarcity. I and the village of Jaikheda

		are completely opposed to the auction of the said sand ghat.
11.	Shri Sachin Kashinath Bramhnkar, Resident of Jaikheda	If the sand ghats in the Mosam riverbed are auctioned, we will face famine. Due to disruption in water drainage, the area around Jaikheda village may suffer from drought and scarcity. I and the village of Jaikheda are completely opposed to the auction of the said sand ghat.
12.	Shri Rajendra Pandharinath Jagtap, Resident of Jaikheda	If the sand ghats in the Mosam riverbed are auctioned, we will face famine. Due to disruption in water drainage, the area around Jaikheda village may suffer from drought and scarcity. I and the village of Jaikheda are completely opposed to the auction of the said sand ghat.
13.	Mr. Sheikh Chand Sheikh Noor, Resident of Jaykheda	If the sand ghats in the Mosam riverbed are auctioned, we will face starvation. Due to the obstruction of water drainage, the area of Jaykheda village may suffer from drought and scarcity. I, along with the entire Jaykheda village, strongly oppose the auction of the said sand ghat.
14.	Shri Shankar Sampat Gaikwad, Resident of Jaikheda	If the sand ghats in the Mosam riverbed are auctioned, we will face famine. Due to disruption in water drainage, the area around Jaikheda village may suffer from drought and scarcity. I and the village of Jaikheda are completely opposed to the auction of the said sand ghat.
15.	Mr. Rahul Ramchandra Patil, Resident of Jaykheda	"If the sand quarries in the Mosam riverbed are auctioned, we will face starvation. Due to the lack of proper water drainage, the area of Jaykheda village may suffer from drought and scarcity. I, along with the entire Jaykheda village, strongly oppose the auction of the said sand quarry."
16.	Shri Vishnu Dadaji Sathe, Resident of Jaikheda	If the sand ghats in the Mosam riverbed are auctioned, we will face famine. Due to disruption in water drainage, the area around Jaikheda village may suffer from drought and scarcity. I and the village of Jaikheda are completely opposed to the auction of the said sand ghat.
17.	Mr. Kailas Namdev Jagtap, Resident of Jaykheda	If the sand ghats in the Mosam riverbed are auctioned, we will face starvation. Because of the obstruction of water drainage, the area of Jaykheda village may become drought-prone and face scarcity. I, along with

		the entire Jaykheda village, strongly oppose the auction of the said sand ghat.
18.	Grampanchayat Dhandri, Taluka Baglan, District Nashik	Copy of Resolution from the Gram Sabha proceedings dated 22/08/2025, Subject No. 10 regarding prevention of auction of minor minerals in the Girna riverbed, Resolution No. 10 — To avoid future water scarcity and drought, a resolution had already been passed in the earlier Gram Sabha that the sand from the Girna riverbed in the village should not be auctioned. Therefore, unanimously opposing the sand auction, today's meeting hereby approves and upholds all the previous resolutions through this resolution.
19.	Grampanchayat Officer, Sarpanch, Grampanchayat Khamkheda, Taluka Deola, District Nashik	The villagers have never given permission for sand extraction or excavation in the past. Also, in several Gram Sabhas, resolutions opposing it have been passed, and in the future as well, there will be firm opposition to such projects. The proposed sand ghat project as well as the sand auction process should therefore be immediately cancelled
20.	Swabhimani Shetkari Sanghatana, Engr. Kuber Dodha Jadhav, Krishna Nivas, Vithewadi, Taluka Deola, District Nashik	If the sand extraction is carried out through auction, it will create problems for agricultural irrigation and drinking water. Therefore, no sand auction or contract should be given in the Girna riverbed within the limits from Bhaur Shiv to Vithewadi Shiv, and from Vithewadi Shiv to Lohrane Shiv.
21.	Grampanchayat Officer, Sarpanch, Grampanchayat Vithewadi (Lo.), Taluka Deola, District Nashik	If sand is extracted from the Girna riverbed, the water level will drop, and wells will run dry. As a result, villagers and animals will have to go elsewhere for drinking water, creating a situation of water scarcity. Also, since the bridge connecting Vithewadi and Sawki villages belongs to the Raft Foundation, its construction should not be endangered. Therefore, sand should not be extracted in any way within 1 km to the east and 1 km to the west.
22.	Grampanchayat Officer, Sarpanch, Deputy Sarpanch, Grampanchayat Sawki (Lo.), Taluka Deola, District Nashik	If sand is extracted from the Girna riverbed, the water level will drop, and the wells will run dry. As a result, villagers and animals will have to go elsewhere for drinking water, creating a situation of water scarcity. Also, since the bridge connecting Vithewadi and Sawki villages belongs to the Raft Foundation, its construction should not be endangered. Therefore, sand should not be extracted in any way within 1 km to the east and 1 km to the west.

23.	Villager, Vithewadi, Taluka Deola, District Nashik	If sand is extracted from the Girna riverbed, the water level will drop, and wells will run dry. As a result, villagers and animals will have to go elsewhere for drinking water, creating a situation of water scarcity. Also, since the bridge connecting Vithewadi and Sawki villages belongs to the Raft Foundation, its construction should not be endangered. Therefore, sand should not be extracted in any way within 1 km to the east and 1 km to the west.
24.	Conservation Action Trust, 5, Sahakar Bhavan, Shala Floor, LBS Road, Narayan Nagar, Ghatkopar (W), Mumbai 2400086	Action should be taken as per the EIA notification of 2006, and the issues raised by them should be submitted to the project proponent for compliance, and assurance regarding the compliance should be obtained."